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NPIC/D-116/70

7 APR 1970

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director for Intelligence

SUBJECT : The [ ] Contract -- Automated Stereo Scanner

1. I have reviewed the status of the Automated Stereo Scanner project -- Contract [ ] That contract has cost us [ ] so far. [ ] tells us that it will cost us another [ ] before we could expect to have a prototype for test and evaluation purposes.

2. I am not satisfied that [ ] can or will produce a workable prototype -- or that [ ] will do so for the additional [ ] From what [ ] recently has told us about present and prospective trouble spots in the prototype equipment, I judge that the additional cost would be more on the order of a [ ]

3. In short, if we at this point told [ ] to complete the project, we would end up with a prototype of questionable quality costing us a total of [ ] I cannot justify such a course to you or to myself.

4. I am, however, satisfied in my own mind that the objective of providing the photo interpreters with a stereo scanning capability has merit. You may well ask, "how much merit?" I have asked that question and am not satisfied that I have the kinds of answers which we need to determine if the merit will be worth the cost.

5. I have decided that the following is our best course of action:

- a. Stop work at [ ]
- b. Contract with the [ ] to conduct stereo scanning research tests which will assist us in determining the incremental values which could be obtained using stereo scanning against various kinds of photo interpretation problems.

Declass Review by NIMA/DOD

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c. Contract with the [ ] to conduct an engineering audit of the [ ] project, to assist us in determining the strengths and weaknesses of [ ] design and choice of present and prospective equipment components and their correlation.

6. The study by [ ] would cost about [ ] and would be paid for out of funds already allocated or planned for in the human factors research work being done for NPIC at [ ]

7. The engineering audit would cost about [ ] of NPIC's FY-70 R&D funds.

8. Would the cost of these two investigations mean adding another [ ] to the ultimate cost of a prototype? Perhaps, but the quality and relevance of the resulting equipment would be assured and the total expenditures would be stretched out over two-plus years.

9. By choosing this course we also would gain an ace-in-the-hole. Depending on the results of the engineering audit, we would have developed an alternate contractor source -- [ ] -- who could complete the prototype, who has done similar jobs for us, and in whose efficiency and effectiveness we have confidence.

10. I propose that we proceed on the course I have described. We are preparing specific contract proposals for the two investigating projects, and we stand ready to brief you as you require.

[ ]  
Executive Director  
National Photographic Interpretation Center

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NPIC/ODIR: [ ]

ENDORSEMENT: I concur in the course of action you propose in para. 5 above.

/s/  
R. J. SMITH

16 April 1970

Deputy Director for Intelligence  
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